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# State-Level Predictors of Food Insecurity and Hunger Among Households With Children

**By Judi Bartfeld, Department of Consumer  
Science and Institute for Research on Poverty,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Rachel  
Dunifon, Department of Policy Analysis and  
Management, Cornell University**

**ERS project representative: Ram Chandran,  
[chandran@ers.usda.gov](mailto:chandran@ers.usda.gov), 202-694-5446**

## Abstract

This report examines interstate variation in household food security. Using hierarchical modeling, we identify several contextual dimensions that appear linked to household food security: the availability and accessibility of Federal nutrition assistance programs, policies affecting economic well-being of low-income families, and States' economic and social characteristics. These dimensions comprise what we refer to as the State food security infrastructure. We find that a strong food security infrastructure particularly benefits families that are economically vulnerable yet have incomes above the poverty line. Almost all of the observed interstate differences in food security can be explained by cross-State differences in demographic and contextual characteristics.

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